



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 1, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor 

RE: DOGM Meeting with Thomas American Stone, Board Order/Compliance Discussions, Aragonite Mine & Mill, M/045/031, Tooele County, Utah

Date/Time of Meeting: June 28, 1991 - (9:00 - 10:15 AM & 4:30 - 5:15 PM)

Place of Meetings: DOGM offices

Participants: Lon & Beverly Thomas - Thomas American Stone, Steve Brooks - BLM, D. Wayne Hedberg, Anthony Gallegos, Holland Shepherd - DOGM (AM meeting); Lon & Beverly Thomas - Thomas American Stone, Lowell Braxton & D. Wayne Hedberg - DOGM (PM meeting)

On June 27, 1991, the Division informed Mr. Thomas by telephone that because of his failure to meet the conditions of the April 23, 1991 Board Order, an Emergency Order was pending which would require cessation of his mining operations at the Aragonite mine and mill. A meeting was subsequently held on June 28, 1991, to discuss the outstanding deficiencies associated with that Board Order.

At the meeting, Mr. Thomas was advised what needed to be done to meet the outstanding conditions of the Board Order, the most critical issue being the lack of detailed reclamation plans for both the mine and mill site areas. Mr. Thomas did produce a series of manifests documenting that a certain amount of trash, garbage and scrap metal had been removed and disposed of from the mill site area. Copies were made of these documents by the Division.

The operator argued that he felt he had submitted a reclamation plan for both the mine and mill areas by virtue of his signing and returning the reclamation contract agreement. It became apparent that there was a misunderstanding in what the Board Order required and what the operator thought he was required to provide.

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Memo to File
Thomas American Stone - M/045/031
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Mr. Thomas stated that he and Beverly had called the Division (Holland Shepherd) on June 11, 1991, immediately following their receipt of the Bureau of Land Management's deficiency letter of June 10, 1991. He indicated that Mr. Shepherd had made it clear to him, that what he had thought to be the reclamation plan, would not be accepted as a plan, by the Division. He then requested supplemental information, in the form of the Division's field sketches/drawings, for his usage in providing the Division and BLM with the required reclamation plans. These drawings were subsequently provided to Mr. Thomas during the meeting. Mr. Thomas also obtained a xeroxed copy of an aerial photograph of the mill/mine areas from the BLM's case file during the meeting.

Mr. Thomas indicated that he would obtain and prepare additional maps and present them to the Division along with written reclamation plans by noon June 28, 1991. He requested that the Division sit down with him in the afternoon and determine the adequacy and completeness of the plan. I informed Mr. Thomas that the Division had a full workload and that we could not necessarily meet his request, but we would do our best to review the plan as expeditiously as possible. I also indicated that all good faith efforts made by the operator would be taken into account in the final decision concerning the issuance of an Emergency Order to cease operations.

The operator was also informed that the Board had been briefed during the June 27, 1991 hearing on the status of the operator's compliance with the April 23, 1991 Board Order. The Board's recommendation to proceed with the preparation of an Emergency Order (if warranted), and a Show Cause Order for the August 1, 1991 Board Hearing, were also explained and discussed with the operator.

Another meeting was held later that afternoon when the operator brought in a reclamation plan and maps for both the mill and mine site areas. Lowell Braxton and I met with Lon and Beverly Thomas. The operator walked us through his plans briefly. He was informed that the plans would receive an indepth review by the Division and the BLM and he would be notified of the completeness and technical adequacy as soon as possible. Mr. Thomas was advised that it was unlikely that a cessation order would be issued prior to the completion of the plan review. We informed him that we would contact him in the near future regarding the scheduling of an inspection of the mine site area.

dwh
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THOMAS AMERICAN STONE - ARAGONITE MINE & MILL
M/045/031

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION - DOGM OFFICE MEETING
June 28, 1991

1. Need for an updated SMO NOI's for the mine and mill sites which explicitly delineates the 5-acre areas that operations will be confined to. These areas must be clearly outlined on a map of adequate scale (1"= 500' minimum scale, 1"= 200' preferred).
2. A detailed reclamation plan must be provided for both the mine and mill sites for those disturbed areas outside of the two 5-acre SMO areas.
3. A field inspection should be coordinated with the operator and both regulatory agencies at a time to be arranged, to finalize/confirm the total extent of disturbed areas that Thomas American Stone will be held responsible for reclamation. Any supplemental measures required to mitigate public health and safety concerns will also be discussed/resolved during the inspection.
4. The boundaries of both 5-acre disturbances (mine and mill sites) must be clearly defined/marked on the ground by the operator.
5. Cleanup of mill site area and removal of waste/garbage to approved disposal area. Manifests are still required documenting materials removed.
6. A description of the mine development occurring and planned for the mine site area.